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National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture Highlights

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Montana ranked second in land in farms with 60.0 million acres in 2007, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Texas ranked first with 129.5 million acres and Kansas ranked third with 47.2 million acres. Montana ranked thirtieth in number of farms with 28,300, while Texas ranked first with 229,000. Montana ranked fourth for average farm size with 2,120 acres, following Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Montana ranked third in all wheat production in 2007, accounting for 7.2 percent of the U.S. total, surpassed only by North Dakota and Kansas. Montana ranks eighth for winter wheat, second for durum, and third for other spring wheat production, accounting for 5.5 percent, 15.9 percent, and 11.5 percent, respectively, of the nation's total. Kansas ranked first in winter wheat production, followed by Texas, Washington, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Colorado, and Nebraska. North Dakota ranks first in durum and spring wheat production. Second place is held by Minnesota for spring wheat. Montana accounted for 15.0 percent of the nation's barley, ranking third behind North Dakota and Idaho.

Montana ranked third, behind Idaho and Oregon, for Austrian winter peas production with 20.5 percent of the U.S. total. Montana ranked second among states in lentils, dry edible peas, flaxseed, and safflower production, accounting for 24.7, 23.2, 3.0, and 14.5 percent, respectively, of the U.S. total. North Dakota ranked first for lentils, dry edible peas, and flaxseed production, while California ranked first for safflower production. Montana ranked sixth for sugar beet production with 3.6 percent of the U.S. total, behind Minnesota, North Dakota, Idaho, Michigan, and California. Montana ranks seventh for alfalfa hay production with 5.2 percent of the nation's total, behind California, South Dakota, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

Montana ranked sixth in sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2008 with 290,000 head and made up 4.8 percent of the U.S. total. Texas was first with 1.0 million head, followed by California, Wyoming, Colorado, and South Dakota. Montana ranked fourth for lamb crop with 270,000 head or 6.7 percent of the U.S. total, preceded by Texas, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Montana ranked fifth for breeding sheep with 265,000 head and 5.9 percent of the U.S. total. Texas was first with 770,000 head, followed by California, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Montana ranked fifth in wool production with 2.4 million pounds or 6.8 percent of the U.S. wool.

Montana ranked eleventh in all cattle and calves inventory on January 1, 2008 with 2.6 million head, comprising 2.7 percent of the U.S. inventory. Montana ranked eighth in all cows with 1.5 million head, accounting for 3.7 percent of the U.S. total and sixth for beef cows with 1.5 million head, accounting for 4.7 percent of the U.S. inventory. Montana ranked seventh for calf crop with 1.6 million head, accounting for 4.3 percent of the U.S. total. Texas ranked first in all of the above categories with 13.8 million head of cattle and calves, 5.6 million all cows, 5.2 million beef cows, and a calf crop of 4.9 million head.

Montana beekeepers produced 9.2 million pounds of honey or 6.2 percent of the nation's total in 2007, placing Montana in fifth place among the states. North Dakota, California, South Dakota, and Florida outpaced Montana in honey production. Other commodity rankings can be found in a table on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt under economics/prices at the bottom of the landing page.

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Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	TOTAL	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Number of farms and ranches	28,300	farms/ranches	2007	30	1.4
Land in farms and ranches	60,000,000	acres	2007	2	6.4
Average Farm Size	2,120	acres	2007	4	N/A
INCOME FROM CASH RECEIPTS, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS					
Total	2,349,159	thousand dollars	2006	33	1.0
Crops	1,069,977	thousand dollars	2006	30	0.9
Livestock	1,279,182	thousand dollars	2006	30	1.1
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle and Calves	2,600,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	11	2.7
All Cows	1,540,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	8	3.7
Beef Cows	1,523,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	6	4.7
Milk Cows	17,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	40	0.2
Cattle on Feed	40,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	24	0.3
All Sheep and Lambs	290,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	6	4.8
Breeding Sheep	265,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	5	5.9
Meat Goats	11,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	34	0.4
Milk Goats	2,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	35	0.7
Hogs and Pigs	180,000	head	Dec. 1, 2007	25	0.3
Chickens	485,000	head	Dec. 1, 2007	37	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,600,000	head	2007	7	4.3
Lamb Crop	270,000	head	2007	4	6.7
Pig Crop	337,000	head	2007	27	0.3
Wool Production	2,350,000	pounds	2007	5	6.8
Egg Production	107,000,000	eggs	2007	37	0.1
Honey Production	9,180,000	pounds	2007	5	6.2
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	149,820,000	bushels	2007	3	7.2
Winter Wheat	83,220,000	bushels	2007	8	5.5
Durum Wheat	11,400,000	bushels	2007	2	15.9
Other Spring Wheat	55,200,000	bushels	2007	3	11.5
Barley	31,680,000	bushels	2007	3	15.0
Oats	1,820,000	bushels	2007	14	2.0
All Hay	5,145,000	tons	2007	11	3.4
Alfalfa Hay	3,795,000	tons	2007	7	5.2
Other Hay	1,350,000	tons	2007	19	1.7
Dry Beans	278,000	cwt	2007	10	1.1
Pinto Beans	192,000	cwt	2007	8	1.7
Garbanzo Beans	86,000	cwt	2007	5	5.7
Lentils	842,000	cwt	2007	2	24.7
Dry Edible Peas	3,689,000	cwt	2007	2	23.2
Austrian Winter Peas	26,000	cwt	2007	3	20.5
Fall Potatoes	3,696,000	cwt	2007	13	0.9
Sugar Beets	1,161,000	tons	2007	6	3.6
Flaxseed	180,000	bushels	2007	2	3.0
Safflower	30,295,000	pounds	2007	2	14.5
Canola	10,087,000	pounds	2007	3	0.7
Corn for Grain	5,510,000	bushels	2007	37	1/
Corn for Silage	1,012,000	tons	2007	23	1.0
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					